

THIS WEEK'S PLAY BILLS.

"The Village
Postmaster"
Makes His Bow.

GRAND OPERA
BACK AGAIN.

Engels in German Repertory—Seabrooke Abandons Comic Opera for Legitimate Comedy.

"The Village Postmaster," a New England comedy drama, by Alice Ives and Jerome Eddy, will have its first production at the Fourteenth Street Theatre to-morrow night. It is in four acts, all laid in New Hampshire, forty years ago, and opens with the morning of "General Training Day." Miranda, daughter of the postmaster, who is a local Post Bell, has just returned from boarding school. She is in love with John Harper, but the postmaster opposes the match and favors a young lawyer, Benjamin Deane. Mary, her sister, a poor seamstress, is engaged to Deane, but he is anxious to get rid of her. The hero goes to Boston to see about an invention. Deane intercepts his letters to Miranda, who, believing him to have forgotten her, reluctantly agrees to marry Deane. In the last act Deane's villainy toward the seamstress is exposed and the lovers are reunited. The scenery is said to be faithful reproductions from nature and the characters are drawn from real life. A chorus from Fifth Avenue chorps and a band of tenors and drum corps are some of the features. The cast is as follows:

Beth Higgins, the village postmaster
John Harper..... Forrest Kennedy
Ben Deane..... Edward J. Morgan
Thomas Deane..... James R. Smith
Thomas Jefferson Higgins..... Louis Wesley
Caleb Springer..... William Humphrey
Rev. Charles Gibbs..... George K. Henry
Miss Carter..... Frank Russell
Miss Penner..... Amelia Hingham
Miranda Higgins..... Harriet Ford
Mary Barton..... Sadie Strangman
Hattie Bailey..... Rose Tiffany
Samantha Higgins..... Queens Vassar
Leila Dean..... Blanche Weaver
Mrs. Charles Gibbs..... Blanche Weaver

The supplementary season of grand opera begins at the Metropolitan Opera House to-morrow night and will consist of eight evening and two matinee performances. "Louise and Juliet" has been selected for the opening night, with Mlle. Melba, Mlle. Bauermeister, the De Reszkes, Piancon and Maguier in the cast. Tuesday night Calve will sing in "Carmen" with Lola Beebe as Mimmi. Wednesday night Nordica and the De Reszkes appear in "Lohengrin." Thursday night "Don Giovanni" is the attraction, with Nordica, Sophie Traubmann, Mlle. Saville, M. Maurel, Edward De Reszke, Mlle. Bauermeister, the principal parts. Friday night Mmes. Calve and Melba make a joint appearance, the former in a portion of "Lucia di Lammermoor" and the latter in "Cavalleria Rusticana." The Saturday matinee will be devoted to "Les Huguenots" with Nordica, Scandini, Bauermeister, Melba, the De Reszkes, Maurel, Piancon, Vanni, Viviani, Rinaldi, De Longpre and De Vascetti in the cast. At the evening performance Mlle. Saville, Mlle. Bauermeister, Sigs, Rinaldi and Ancona will sing the principal parts in three acts of "Traviata," which will be followed by "La Navarraise," with Calve in the leading role. A concert will be given to-night.

George Engels, the German comedian, will be seen at the Irving Place Theatre to-morrow, Wednesday and Saturday matinee in a repetition of "Die Kinder der Exzellenz" (The Children of the Excellency), with the star as Major von Muxell. On Tuesday, Schenck's comedy, "Krieg im Frieden" (The Peace in War), will be given for the first time with Engels as Rolf-Beffingen. The same performance will be repeated on Saturday evening. The programme on Thursday and Friday will be "Rosenkranz und Guendelstein," a four-act comedy, by Michael Klapp, in which Mr. Engels will take the part of Baldrian Schmelich.

Thomas G. Seabrooke will make his first appearance in this city in comedy at the Fifth Avenue Theatre on Saturday evening, presenting "The Speculator." Mr. Seabrooke has always been identified with comic opera, and his appearance in a legitimate comedy will be somewhat of a novelty. The "Speculator" has for its theme life among the "bulls" and "bears" of Wall Street. Two speculators, whose antagonism has been of life-long standing, are on opposite sides of a tremendous wheat deal. Both are in it so deeply that whoever wins, the other is ruined. The son of one is in love with the daughter of the other. Of course, fate favors Seabrooke, and all ends happily. Mr. Seabrooke expects a character entirely foreign to anything he has ever presented in this city. As a warm-hearted, selfless man, he is said to have a most congenial role and one that gives him opportunity for dramatic work as well as for display of his well-known comedy talents. The supporting company includes Mr. Atkin Lawrence, Mr. Sydney Booth, Mr. Roy Fairchild, Mr. W. H. Bruce, Mr. Frederick Peters, M. Prince, Lloyd, Mr. W. H. McCormack, Miss Loyne Drex, Miss Blanche Moulton, Miss Harriet Aubrey and Miss Jeannette Lewry.

IN VAUDEVILLE'S REALM.

New and Novel Attractions Scheduled at the Concert Halls and Vaudeville Theatres.

Chevalier begins his fourth week of success at Koster & Bial's to-morrow. His songs have made a great hit. Paulinetti and Pico, athletes and comic gymnasts, make their American debut. Dureux-Geraldes, French acrobats, also appear for the first time. Herr Grais, Harriet Vernon, Flora West, Brothers Horn, the Delavies, Cora Cassell and Ida Fuller remain.

Tony Pastor's bill for this week includes among other things, Little, Lester and Williams, Rice and Elmar, Corbett, Evelyn Britton, Shayne and Worthington, Lillian Green, Karsale and Violet St. Clair, C. V. Semann, Hall and Glynna, the Carbons, Emeline Bertha Wagner, Joe Lewis and Ben H. Harney. Mike Harrio is a great attraction at the Trocadero, and to-morrow night he will introduce some new dances. The three Danbar sisters will also appear in their dances and comic songs. Mervyn and Inman, Mason and Healy, the Lucifers and a pair of pretty girls will also appear. Fred Solomon's burlesque, "Pa Diavolo," will be put on to-morrow night, with Lillian Mabel in the leading role.

The Washington street bill will present the spectacular production, "Fortuna," at Miner's Bowery Theatre to-morrow. Associated with it are Haines and Pettigill, Nellie Waters, O'Brien, Jennings and O'Brien, Emery and Mariow and White and Ryan.

There are many notable favorites on the list at Proctor's Pleasure Palace to-morrow. Selma, the operatic star, will sing some new ballads and songs. The Panzer brothers, of strength to show. The Panzer brothers,

BILL NYE'S "COMIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND."



Bill Nye's Idea of How King Alfred Told the Time of Day:

The late Bill Nye's "Comic History of England," upon which he was at work during his fatal illness, has been eagerly awaited by thousands of Americans, who have laughed with this prince of native humorists for many years. The Sunday Journal had intended to-day to begin the publication of this highly interesting work, but owing to delay in copyright and in the artist's drawings, the publication of the first installment of the book has been postponed until Sunday next. On Sunday, April 13, therefore, will be published in this newspaper the opening chapters of what is unquestionably the most original treatment of the facts and events of English history ever conceived. And it will be gratifying to know that Mr. Nye has never written anything more characteristic of his inimitable humorous fancy, or which smacks so truly of his peculiar style.

It is always in order for publishers, in advertising the posthumous works of some great writer recently deceased, to speak of them as "his greatest effort," "his most enduring contribution to literature," etc. Yet it is no exaggeration to say that in his "Comic History of England" Mr. Nye has easily surpassed himself as a literary

man of our population. He never wrote over their heads. He could write an essay on a cow that would combine wisdom with wit, truth with fancy, and that would bring to the face of the most illiterate yeoman a smile of delightful satisfaction. Give Nye an eyebrow for a text and he would produce out of it a sermon and a comedy, with a laugh in every line. More even than Mark Twain could he plant in his quips and jests the germ of truth to nature, which is, after all, the essence of all humor. He was a humorist of the people.

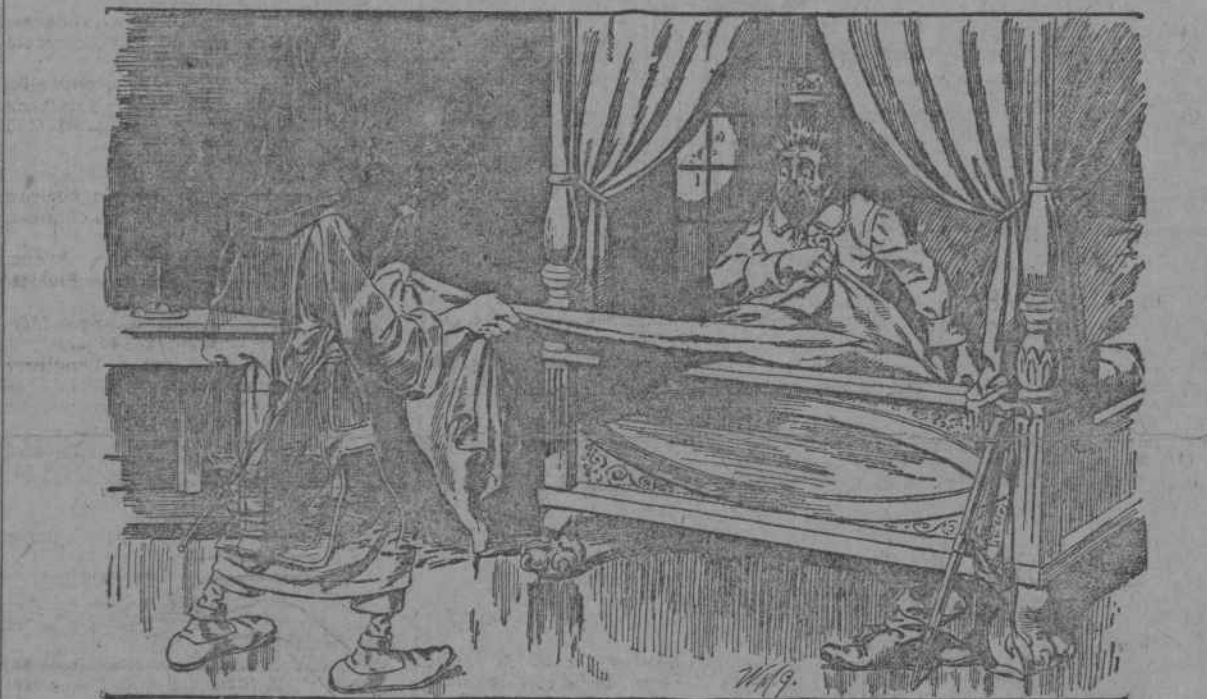
So that in his "Comic History of England" Nye found not only a virgin field for his pen, but one, if you stop to examine it, overflowing with opportunities for humorous allusion, satirical analysis and the good-natured nonsense which should accompany such a unique work. There exists among us just enough gentle scorn and polite derision of our "kin beyond seas" to justify a playful fancy like Nye's in launching a playful attack on the English and the English and their land. Our joke writers, paragraphers, and at times our essayists, have had their fling at Mr. John Bull these many years. The British scheme of government, lords and ladies, dandyism and dummery of rank and title, the Queen herself and her royal progeny,

here in America he will find new lustre for a name that has been a bright star in the American literary firmament since Nye was discovered in the columns of the Laramie Boomerang.

It is not likely that Englishmen will relish Nye's harmless shafts at the mighty empire's expense, for the average Englishman has a deep-seated conviction regarding the inviolable majesty of the English name and the importance of English history. To poke fun at them, to turn the mirror of a humorist's imagination upon the sober facts and great deeds and great men of the nation, may strike the more sensitive of the Queen's subjects as an audacious bit of caricature.

This will be the first time an American has dared to take the English in any other way than seriously. Yet it will be admitted that, from the American point of view, our English cousins afford an admirable target for the humorist. Nor should we overlook the fact that Englishmen, and other foreigners without number, from Mrs. Trollope to Paul Bourget, have come to America, looked us over hastily but curiously, and have then come home and humorously and satirically exposed our national weaknesses and faults. And we have never got it all made about it. Nye's "Comic History" will be additionally valuable because it will show whether John Bull can really take a joke as a joke, when the joke is on him.

The Sunday Journal promises its widening circle of readers a good laugh each Sunday during the publication of the book. A



The Ghost of Becket Appearing to King Henry.

cartoonist of human nature. Nye's humor, always so wholesomely laughable and so facile in giving a humorous turn to the serious facts of life, appealed, for these reasons, first of all to the plain people—the

have all been the butt of American funny men. But it has remained for Bill Nye to crystallize in a book the serio-comic phases of British character before King Henry II. This he has done in a way that will assure him a lasting reputation abroad, while

Kate Claxton and Charles A. Stevenson appearing in the principal roles. The popular play has not been seen here for a long time, and the revival will be welcome. J. K. Emmet is to produce his new play, "Felix in Love," at Sanford's Third Avenue Theatre to-morrow. He is supported by a good company, which includes Annie Matthews, Gail, Pierpont, George Hernandez and Charles A. Prince.

RUNNING ATTRACTIONS.

Plays Which Please the Public and Are Warranted in Having Extended Engagements.

The two hundredth performance of "The Heart of Maryland" will be celebrated April 22 at the Herald Square Theatre. The series of college nights during April and May will include universities of Harvard, Yale, Cornell and Columbia.

Virginia Earle will resume her place in "The Lady Slavey" at the Casino to-morrow night. This is Walter Jones' last week, and Charles Danby will again be seen next Monday as the Sheriff.

"Mrs. Sanson" begins its last week at Palmer's Theatre to-morrow. Miss Kilder and Augustus Cook have won first honor in the revival.

"Humorists" is progressing nicely at the Academy of Music. The horses, hounds and broadsword combat are attractive features, and the play is handsomely staged.

This is Lillian Russell's last week as "The Little Duke," after which John Hare and his company will play a return engagement. He will produce a new three-act comedy in addition to other plays in which he has been seen.

Sanford's "The Law of the Land" has "loughed on" at the American Theatre. The play is full of action and the story an interesting one, with the comedy element fully developed.

Fay Templeton's dance has added interest to "Excelsior, Jr.," the merry burlesque at the Broadway. It is light and cheerful, like all of Blue's productions, and business has been good.

May Irwin has discovered that it doesn't pay to introduce new songs in "The Widow Jones," for while they are always pleasing the audience insists upon the old favorites. The costumes and scenery are particularly fine. Friends of Cuba are crowding the Star Theatre at every performance of "The Last Stroke." The melodrama is exciting and picturesque, and the company producing it is exceptionally good.

The advance sale of "Chimmie Fadden's" one hundredth performance has been extremely large. Souvenirs will be given Wednesday night in honor of the Boverly Boy's century run.

Silver handled pens will be given to gentlemen attending the performance of "A Black Shoe" at Hoyt's Theatre Tuesday night. This is a departure from the regular custom of giving the ladies a present, but the managers are prepared to brave the storm. Ois Harlan and his merry associates are keeping the sheep moving lively.

The novel situations and amusing hap-

DIAMONDS IN BICYCLES.

Precious Stones
and Solid Silver
for Decoration.

NOTHING TOO GOOD
FOR RICH RIDERS.

Manufacturers Now Em-
bellishing Their Wheels
in Response to the
Demand.

There has suddenly sprung up a great demand for decorated bicycles. Beribboned handle bars and nickel-plated lamps, which recently proved sufficient adornment for the most fastidious women riders, have now been superseded by all sorts of ornamental furbelows and jewelled decorations, which, strange to say, have been fashioned at the request of men riders.

It was never supposed even by the most enthusiastic bicycle crank that the fad which started off so meekly would assume such large proportions that \$1,000 worth of decorations would be lavished on a "bike." A young English nobleman dropped into Tiffany's the other day, however, and ordered the best in the shop, and when they were through covering his machine over with silver mountings and studding the handle bars with precious stones, he had an 18-carat affair which cost him an even thousand.

An ardent admirer of Lillian Russell presented her recently with a bicycle richly ornamented with gold, and intended further embellishing it by having diamonds placed in the ends of the handle bars. The fair Lillian thought this magnificence would be out of place, so she said: "No, my boy; I'll wear all those things right here," pointing to her fingers.

A well-known New York society man has had built a bicycle which has one wheel of silver and the other of gold, while the handles are studded with opals and pearls.

This elaborate decoration is done, as a rule, by large jewelry establishments, although several bicycle firms are beginning to do their own decorating. At Tiffany's, where the silver mounting of bicycles is no longer uncommon, the superintendent said: "Of course, if the demand for full jewelled affairs grows strong enough, we are going to meet it. Thus far, we have tried to keep within the bounds of good taste and moderation, but with a fad like this once takes hold it must have its fling."

The first began it because there seemed to be a demand for handsome bicycles

than the typical one now manufactured. It never occurred to us that men would take up the idea or give it any encouragement. These are now our chief patrons. The first wheel exhibited was one of ordinary manufacture, believed to be one of the best in every respect, which the firm decorated in sterling silver in Louis XVI. style. Carved ivory handles were added to the handle bar, and the forks, supporting rods, sprocket wheel and other parts were decorated in good taste, without impairing the practicability and usefulness of the machine or adding materially to its weight. A silver cyclometer, silver watch and silver decorated tool belt completed the outfit. This machine was sold to the manufacturer of the mechanical part of the wheel, and exhibited by him at the Cycle Show.

The accompanying illustration shows a ladies' wheel, which represents the top notch thus far reached in decorating. It was exhibited by Tiffany in their window, and sold the first day to a fair Bostonian. The front forks and head are richly overlaid with silver openwork, the ornamentation suggesting the rinceaux and Louis XV. style. The whole framework is virtually covered with this beautiful decoration, all of which is done by hand. The handles are of carved and stained ivory, decorated with silver and studded with pearls in the ends. The wheel has a solid silver cyclometer, a silver watch, a silver belt and leather tool bag, and there are silver ornaments on the saddle.

Perhaps the most beautiful accessory of this magnificent wheel is the solid silver lamp and bell attached to the handle. It is after the most approved fashion, with a higher power reflector, and with ruby and emerald cut glass lenses. The bell is of There is a full nickel mud-guard, ornamented with silver and stung with the finest silk. The chain guard is also of silver, and a silver bell and leather tool bag, and there are silver ornaments on the saddle.

The large bicycle firms are employing specialists now to devise new styles of decoration.

THE RULING PASSION.

A Clergyman's Story of the Dying but Repentant Pickpocket and the Watch.

A story told by an eminent clergyman must be true. This curious incident was related in the pulpit of Westminster Abbey by Canon Gore, now a very popular English preacher.

"A hardened professional pickpocket found himself within sight of death, and for the first time in his life had leisure to think. During a somewhat protracted ill-

ness the reality of the love of God was vividly borne in upon him, and he became, in the deepest sense, converted from darkness to light. He had received the sacrament, and was at the last gasp, when the priest, who was reading the commendatory prayer by his bedside, heard a hoarse whisper in his ear, 'Look out for your watch.' As the clergyman raised his head, the man lay dead with the watch in his hand.

"The will," said Canon Gore, "was not strong enough to resist the habitual, instinctive motions of the body, yet was strong enough to protest against its own act with the voice."

WORTH OF FOREIGN COINS.

The Value in American Money of the Coins of the Nations of the World.

The United States Treasury Department has figured out the value in American money of the coins that are monetary units, in all countries that have a fixed currency, as follows:

	Cents.
Argentina, peso.....	96.5
Austria-Hungary, crown.....	20.3
Belgium, franc.....	19.3
Brazil, milreis.....	54.6
Chile, peso.....	91.2
Cuba, peso.....	92.6
Denmark, crown.....	29.8
Egypt, pound of 100 piasters.....	\$4.94.3
Finland, mark.....	\$36.04
France, franc.....	19.3
Germany, mark.....	23.8
Greece, drachma.....	19.3
Haiti, gourde.....	96.5
Italy, lira.....	19.3
Japan, yen.....	100
Netherlands, florin.....	40.2
Newfoundland, dollar.....	\$1.01.4
Portugal, milreis.....	\$1.08
Spain, peseta.....	19.3
Sweden and Norway, crown.....	26.8
Switzerland, franc.....	19.3
Turkey, piaster.....	40.4
Venezuela, bolivar.....	94.4
India, rupee, silver.....	28.3
Spain, yen, silver.....	19.3
Mexico, silver dollar.....	53.3
Persia, krab.....	96.5
Russia, rouble.....	39.3
Tripoli, manbah.....	44.3

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WHITE JAP PRINTS, with blue figures, 30 inches wide, 17c.	NAGOZA PINK AND CREAM CLOTH, 30 inches wide, 25c.
WHITE JAP PRINTS, with red figures, 30 inches wide, 17c.	BLUE AND WHITE ANATOLIA STRIPE CLOTH, 42 inches wide, 31c.
WHITE JAP PRINTS, with green figures, 30 inches wide, 17c.	BLUE AND WHITE FIGURED CREPES, 13 inches wide, \$1.10 for piece of 12 to 12 yds.
WHITE JAP PRINTS, with gold figures, 30 inches wide, 17c.	WHITE AND BLUE FIGURED CREPES, 13 inches wide, \$1.10 for piece of 12 to 12 yds.
NAGOZA BLUE AND WHITE CLOTH, 30 inches wide, 25c.	
NAGOZA GOLD AND WHITE CLOTH, 30 inches wide, 25c.	

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WORSTED VELVETS, made and laid.....	85c.
MOQUETTES, made and laid.....	90c.
BIGELOW AXMINSTERS.....	\$1.40

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